



**County of San Diego
HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting | Zoom | CAC Rm 302**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025
3:00pm to 5:00pm
MEETING MINUTES**

SEAT	DISTRICT	PRIMARY	ALTERNATE	ATTEND	PRESENTERS	HHSA SUPPORT
1	1	Ana Melgoza			2025 County of San Diego Legislative Advocacy Process, Matthew Parr , Director, Sarah Dawe, Esq , Legislative Policy Advisor, Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs Anuj Bhatia, DrPH , Deputy Director, PHS Admin	Ankita Kadakia, MD , Interim PHO, PHS
2	1	Dr. Suzanne Afflalo Z	Samhita Ilango Z	✓		Elizabeth Hernandez, PhD , Director, PHS
3	2	Barry Jantz, CHAIR IP		✓		Jennifer Tuteur, MD, FAAFP , Chief Medical Officer, MCS
4	2	Victoria Floyd IP		✓		Anuj Bhatia, DrPH , Deputy Director, PHS
5	3	Todd Walters				Sayone Thihalolipavan, MD, MPH , Justice-Involved Health Officer, Medical Care Services
6	3	Linda Correa				Rhonda Freeman, MPH , Branch Chief, MCFHS, PHS
7	4	James Lepanto IP		✓		Heather Buonomo , Director of Environmental Health, DEQH
8	4	Geysil Arroyo, VICE CHAIR IP		✓		Danica Borja, DrPH, MPH, CHES® , Program Coordinator, MCFHS, PHS
9	5					Ann Jimenez , Admin Analyst III, PHS Admin, PHS
10	5					Kirk Bloomfield , Health Planning and Program Spec, MCFHS, PHS
11	SDC Med Soc	Paul Hegyi	Jennipher Ohmstede		Authorization to Accept Tobacco Grant Program Funding, Adopt a Resolution, and Authorize Applications for Additional Funding Opportunities, Rhonda Freeman, MPH , Branch Chief, Maternal Child and Family Health Services Branch	Joy Bryers , Executive Assistant, PHS
12	HASDIC	Dimitrios Alexiou	Caryn Sumek Z	✓		Joshua Beidler, MS , Administrative Secretary II, PHS
13	HC Partners	Tim Fraser	Lauren Abrams IP	✓		Aaron Rodriguez , Information Technology Specialist, PHS
14	Consumer Center	Joanne Franciscus IP	Kris Jacobs	✓		
15	BHAB	Judith Yates IP		✓		
16	Healthy SD-PRO	Dr. Harriet Seldin IP		✓		
17	Healthy SD-Con	Jack Dailey IP	Alex Perez	✓		

Attendance Key: **IP** = In person, **Z** = Zoom

	<p>A. Roll Call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Barry Jantz called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.b. Todd Walters was absent due to just cause. <p>B. Remarks from the Chairperson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Barry Jantz: Because of the Tijuana River Valley sewage issue this meeting has caused a little bit more of an interest and so we're going to take some things out of order to make it more accommodating. We'll address that when we approve the agenda. We also have the strategic plan for approval on the agenda. I think we're going to probably move that down after the informational items. But it's appropriate that I talk about something we've been discussing for a few months as part of the strategic planning process, and that is engaging the public more and inviting the public to engage with us more. And in so doing, in reaching out to the community to give them information about this informational item on the Tijuana River Valley sewage issue, I think that caused maybe more of an interest than we thought. I just want to make sure that everybody knows that we are advisory to HHSA staff and the County of San Diego. We're here today to just hear the information. Dr. Kadakia has been presenting that information. In fact, it's been reported in the press before. Now she can tell us, but I'm anticipating we're not going to hear anything new other than what you've already reported. So this is not to disappoint anybody who maybe came thinking there's going to be some new information or something earth shattering or anything like that. It will be the same information. And when I shared that with folks, it was in the spirit of providing another opportunity to hear that same information. Some maybe didn't take it that way and that's understood. So it's a reminder I think especially as we adopt the strategic plan and as we focus so much over the four months talking about the strategic plan about increasing our engagement with the public, increasing our ability to communicate with the Board of Supervisors and HHSA staff, that that was the intent, but it doesn't change the fact that we should probably do that as part of a communication plan the County already has a process for. So this is a reminder to me and it's a reminder to everybody else that we're going to engage with the public more, we're going to have more engagement, but we'll do it together with County staff and so I just wanted to state that at the outset. <p>C. Approval of February Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Motion to approve the February agenda, with the consent item moved after the two informational items, was made by Dr. Harriet Seldin and seconded by Geysil Arroyo.b. Roll Call: All HSAB members in attendance voted Aye. <p>D. Approval of January Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Motion was made by Joanne Franciscus and seconded by Dr. Harriet Seldin.b. Roll Call: All HSAB members in attendance voted Aye.
II. PUBLIC COMMENT	None.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. 2025 County of San Diego Legislative Advocacy Process, **Matthew Parr**, Director, Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs; **Anuj Bhatia, DrPH**, Deputy Director, Public Health Services Administration



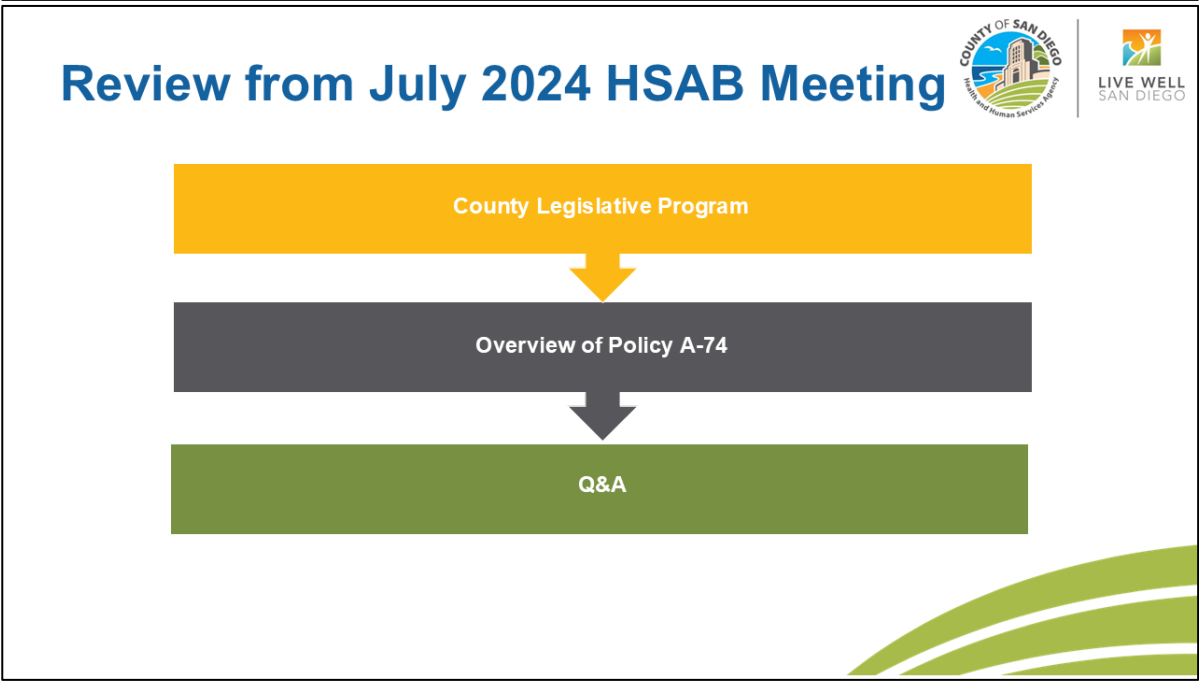
County of San Diego Legislative Program Process

Health Services Advisory Board Meeting February 4, 2024

Anuj Bhatia, DrPH
Deputy Director
Public Health Services

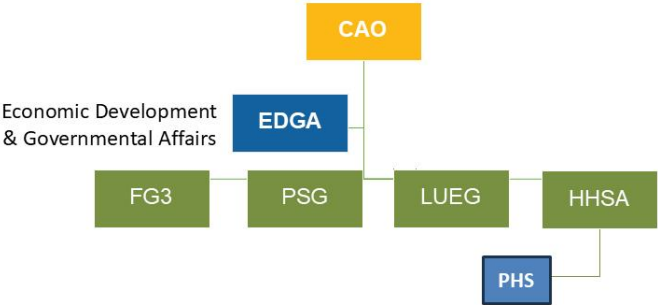


Legislative Advocacy vs. Legislative Program Processes	
Legislative Advocacy	Legislative Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Related to specific bills• Requires PHS to provide stance on the bills being addressed (as needed)• Requires formal letter to HHSA Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Related to topics/areas• Requires input on Legislative Program document due in August• Approved by the Board in December



County Legislative Org Structure

COUNTY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Legislative Program

Sponsorship

- Bills Sponsored by the County.

Priority Issues

- High level areas of interest.

Policy Guidelines

- Provides direction to advocate on issues that may impact County programs.

Example of Formal Position

BOS M-2- LEGISLATIVE POLICY: LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

June 15, 2023

TO: Supervisor Nora Vargas, Chairwoman
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice Chair
Supervisor Joel Anderson
Supervisor Jim Desmond

FROM: Caroline Smith, Director
Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs

SUPPORT: ASSEMBLY BILL 663 (HANEY) PHARMACY: MOBILE UNITS.

Opioid overdoses are connected to rising deaths among vulnerable populations in San Diego County. According to data from the San Diego County Medical Examiner and San Diego's Regional Taskforce on Homelessness, 588 people experiencing homelessness died in San Diego County in 2022. Of these deaths, 361 died due to an overdose, including 269 individuals who died from a fentanyl overdose.

Policy A-74



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY		
Subject	Policy Number	Page
Citizen Participation in County Boards, Commissions, and Committees	A-74	9 of 18
<p>committee meeting place of which they are a member and which is within the County. Members will be reimbursed at the mileage rate established in Section 472.2 of the Administrative Code.</p> <p>12. Legislation - County committees are created to advise the Board of Supervisors - not the Legislature or Congress, with the exception of those committees which have been specifically mandated to advise other legislators under the government codes or laws establishing them. When a County committee wishes to make a recommendation on pending legislation to a legislative body other than the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the committee shall submit recommendations or positions on legislation to the Department Head. The Department Head shall submit the committee recommendations to the Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs, setting the departmental position, relative to the Committee recommendations. The Office of Strategy and Intergovernmental Affairs shall inform the Board of Supervisors of the committee's recommendation or the C/O may place the committee and its recommendation on a future Board of Supervisors agenda.</p> <p>If the Board does not agree with the committee and will not forward the recommendations to the appropriate legislative body, the committee members may, as individuals, contact the legislative body recommending certain actions. Transmittal of recommendations on County legislation without prior Board approval violates the intent of Board Policy M-2 (Legislative Advocacy). The exception being those committees which have been specifically mandated to advise other legislators under the government codes or laws establishing them. These committees may forward their recommendations per the requirements of their mandate.</p>		

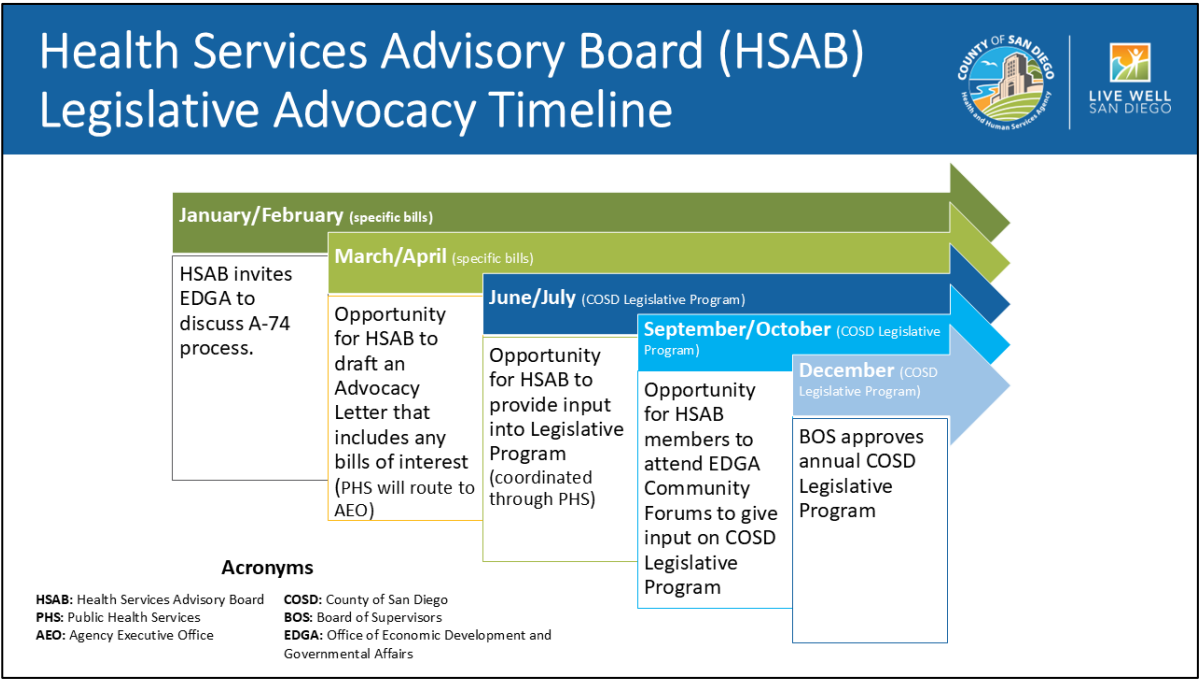
The committee wishes to make a recommendation on pending legislation.

The committee submits its recommendation on pending legislation to the committee support staff.



The recommendation is routed to the HHS Director.

The recommendation is submitted to EDGA with the departmental position, relative to the committee's recommendation.

Policy A-074



HSAB Legislative Program Process



Initial Presentation

1. HSAB receives a presentation on the County Legislative Program Input process, from PHS, on the **first Tuesday in May or June** of the calendar year.
2. PHS sends an email to all HSAB members regarding the opportunity to provide input on the County's Legislative Program
3. Legislative Subcommittee meets in **June** to provide feedback on the County's Legislative Analysis Program
4. On the **first Tuesday in July**, HSAB finalizes its Legislative Analysis Program recommendation and submits them to PHS for integration to the Legislative Program input by mid July.

HSAB Advocacy Letter Process



Initial Presentation

1. HSAB receives a presentation on the County Legislative Bill process, from PHS and EDGA, on the **first Tuesday in January or February** of the calendar year.
2. Legislative Subcommittee meets in **between February and March** to deliberate any Legislative Advocacy feedback for specific bills
3. By **early April**, HSAB finalizes its Legislative Advocacy recommendations and submits them to PHS for further elevation, ultimately to EDGA.

HSAB Legislative Program Process



HSAB Legislative Subcommittee

- Ideally, the Subcommittee would meet once or twice, or otherwise as needed to deliberate and determine draft recommendations on behalf of the HSAB.
 - County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC) and Economic Development and Governmental Affairs (EDGA) Resources are available for determining input.
- The Subcommittee would finalize recommendations in preparation for presentation to the entire HSAB, in June or early July.



HSAB Legislative Program Process



Entire HSAB

- Reviews the input by or before the July monthly meeting and finalizes for inclusion in the Legislative Program feedback.
 - This will be included with content that Public Health Services will send to the Office of Strategy & Innovation.



HSAB Legislative Program Process



Additional Opportunities for Input

- Public Health Services Deputy Director will make HSAB Members aware of and have access to Community Forums available for Legislative Program input.
 - **These forums are an additional option for Legislative Program Input by HSAB Members**

Typically, Public Comment period begins in **August through October**. This period concludes with a **Virtual Community Forum**, where members of the community were able to provide input and ask questions about the upcoming Legislative Program.

Ask a Question

Submit a Comment

Email a Comment

Register for a Forum

Ask a Question

Have a question about the 2024 Legislative Program. Ask us! We'll get back to you as soon as we can.

Ask a question...

Enter your email

Enter your screen name

☐ I agree to the [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) for using Engagement HQ

SUBMIT

[Register Now](#)

HSAB Legislative Program Process



Public Health Services

- Ensures that HSAB input on Legislative Program is included and differentiated from the Department input.
- Shares content with PHS Leadership for review and approval prior to submission of overall Legislative Program feedback to EDGA.
- Sends the combined feedback, from both the HSAB and Public Health Services Department to EDGA.
- Ensures that the HSAB has access to the final recommendations approved by the Board of Supervisors.
 - The Legislative Program will be heard at the **December Board of Supervisors Hearing.**



2025 Legislative Program

Here is what the final document looks like.

[Government Affairs \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/government-affairs)



Thank you and Questions



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(619) 481-4417

EDGA Main Website

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/cao/edga.html>

EDGA Legislative Program

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/cao/edga/legislative-advocacy/legislative-program/2025/Legislative Program.pdf](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/cao/edga/legislative-advocacy/legislative-program/2025/Legislative%20Program.pdf)



The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.

Questions and Comments:

Barry Jantz: Last year I don't think we weighed in on any bill specific[ly]. I think we were running a little short on time. We got a presentation like this to clarify the way things should work. So this is really helpful, by the way. We did weigh in last year on the legislative program. And so this is an opportunity to do both. We've seen a timeline about how to do that. Would there be a time? Because when we were asked to weigh in on the legislative program, it's broader legislative goals, right? It's not bill-specific. And when we brought up bills, it's been specific. And we've identified the bills and brought them forward. Would there be a time when EDGA would be reaching out and saying, here's some specific bills, not just the broader legislative program, but here's some specific bills we'd like you to take a look at and provide your recommendations?

Matthew Parr: Thank you, Barry. That's a great question. I'm Matthew Parr, Director of Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs. The legislative program, it's the Board's legislative program and so we would take legislation and advocate on behalf of the Board of Supervisors. You all as the Health Services Advisory Board advises the Board of Supervisors members on County policies, county regulations, etc. And so there wouldn't be a time that we would bring you all a list of bills to review because we already have direction from the Board of Supervisors through the legislative program to advocate according to what has been determined in the legislative program. So we wouldn't necessarily come to you all with a list of bills. We do review every piece of legislation introduced at the state level. And so I hope that answers your question.

Barry Jantz: It does. I just wanted to, in keeping with what we've done in the past, although we didn't do it last year, that our legislative committee sat down and identified bills. And we weren't waiting for the County staff to come and say, and here's some bills we want you to throw in the hopper and consider. So I just want to make sure that remains the same.

Matthew Parr: Yes. That's correct.

Judith Yates: My question's a little bit more general. I'm interested in whether the explanation of this process, the whole piece, is that presented to a number of other boards as well? I mean, are we unique in this? Or is this something that you do starting in February with, you know, any number of boards?

Matthew Parr: That's a great question. We do frequently interact with the other advisory boards. Some are more interested in legislation than others, and so it really depends on the board. But yes, we do interact with many of the boards, not all of them.

Judith Yates: So I'm on this board because I've been appointed to it from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. If I wanted my board to have this presentation, would you be the person for me to contact?

Matthew Parr: Yeah, I'll make myself available and happy to come and chat with the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, absolutely. I shared that with this group too, any time there are questions, happy to come and speak.

III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- B. Tijuana River Valley Sewage Emergency: Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) Results, **Ankita Kadakia, MD**, Interim Public Health Officer, Public Health Services Administration

Tijuana River Valley Sewage Emergency:
Community Assessment for Public Health
Emergency Response (CASPER) Results



Ankita Kadakia, M.D.
Interim Public Health Officer
County of San Diego

Agenda

- 1. CASPER Results (Highlights)
- 2. County of San Diego Plan of Action
- 3. Closing & Summary

CASPER Communications Plan

- Board Briefings
- City managers (Imperial Beach, Coronado, and San Diego)
- Local, State, and Federal Elected officials
- SDSU students, UCSD, and County CASPER participants
- Tijuana River Valley Taskforce
- Local, State, and Federal Agencies, South Bay School Superintendents and the Board of Education, South Bay FQHCs and Healthcare Providers, and South Region Promotoras/Community Health Worker Briefings, South Region Community Leadership
- Dedicated website with multiple resources for community and school specific guidance, CASPER dashboard and CDC full result in multiple languages ([South Region Health Concerns](#))

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

Community Public Health Needs Assessments in Response to the Tijuana River Valley Sewage Crisis



Goals & Objectives

BACKGROUND

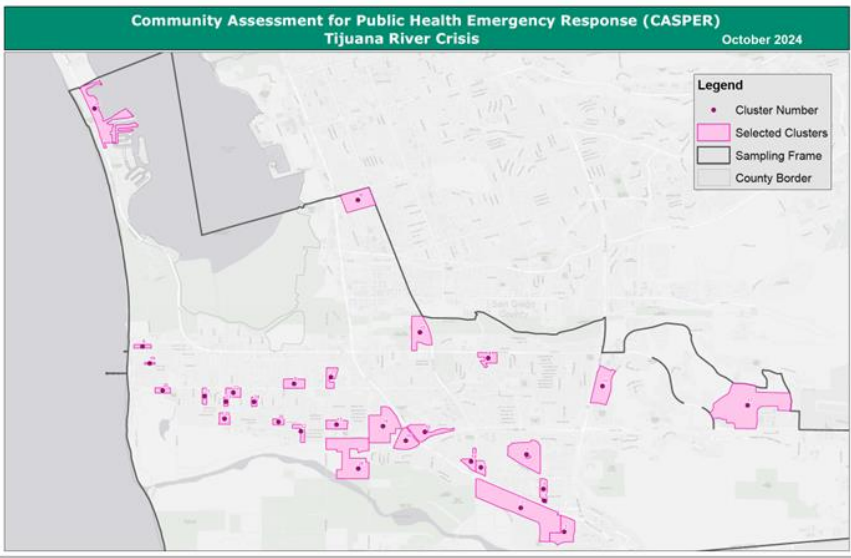
- **Goal:** Assess household-level impacts via a survey in the South region of San Diego County related to sewage exposure from the Tijuana River Valley
- **Objectives:**
 - Determine the community’s health needs and status, including behavioral and mental health
 - Understand household concerns of air and water exposure from the sewage
 - Describe household health experiences related to the sewage contamination
 - Identify preferred methods of communication and resource needs
- **Caspers conducted during Flint Water Crisis, Deep Water Horizon Crisis, Hurricane Harvey**

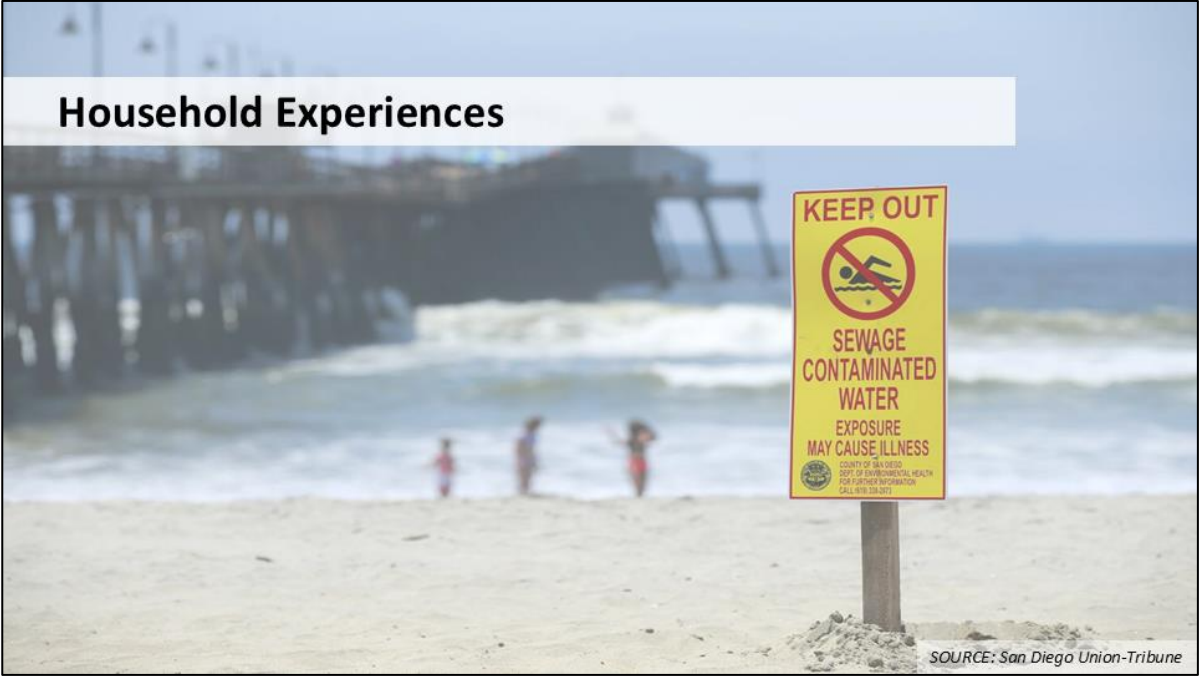
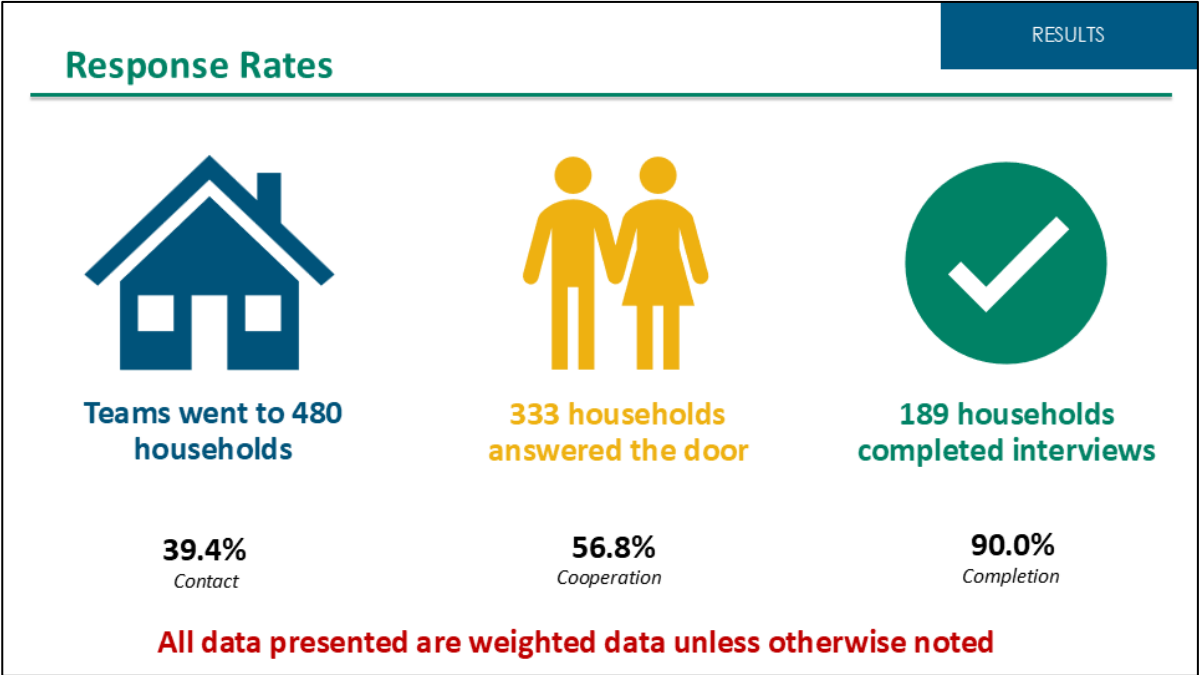
Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

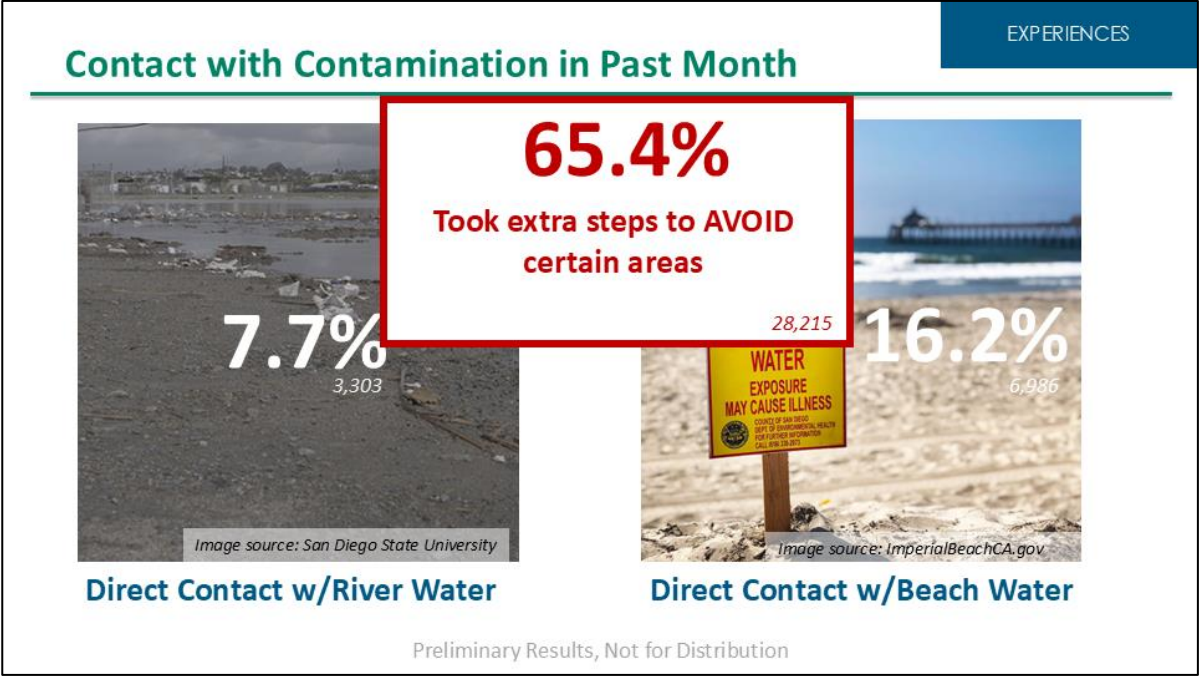
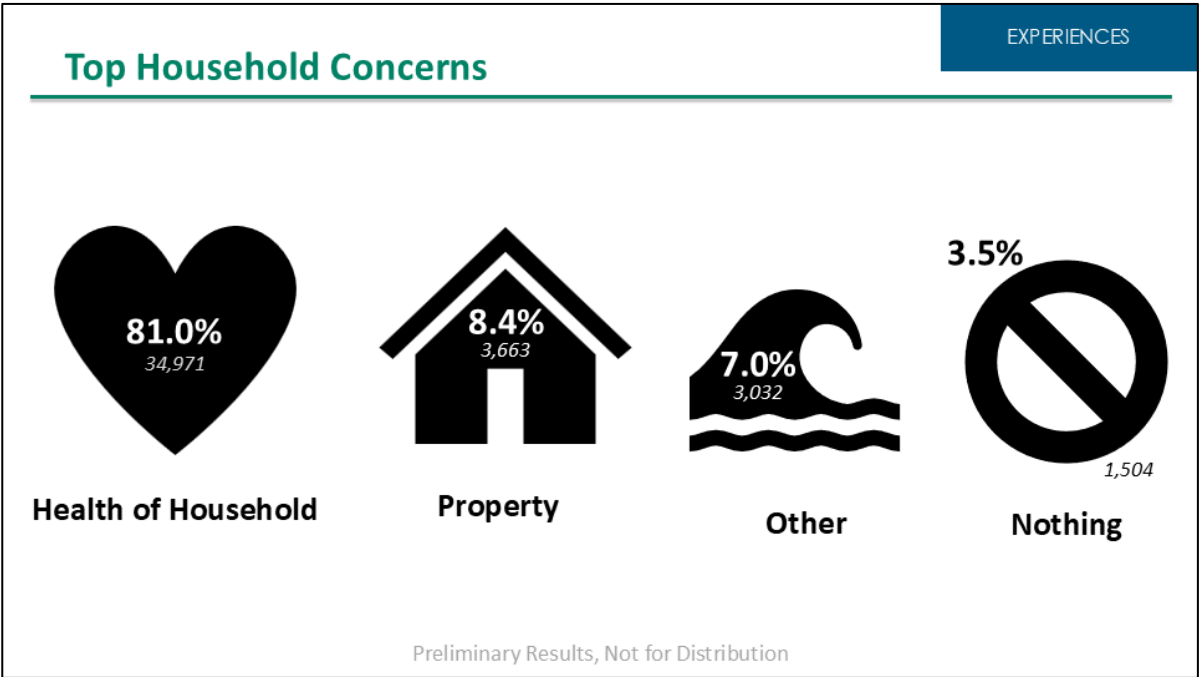
Selected Clusters For CASPER

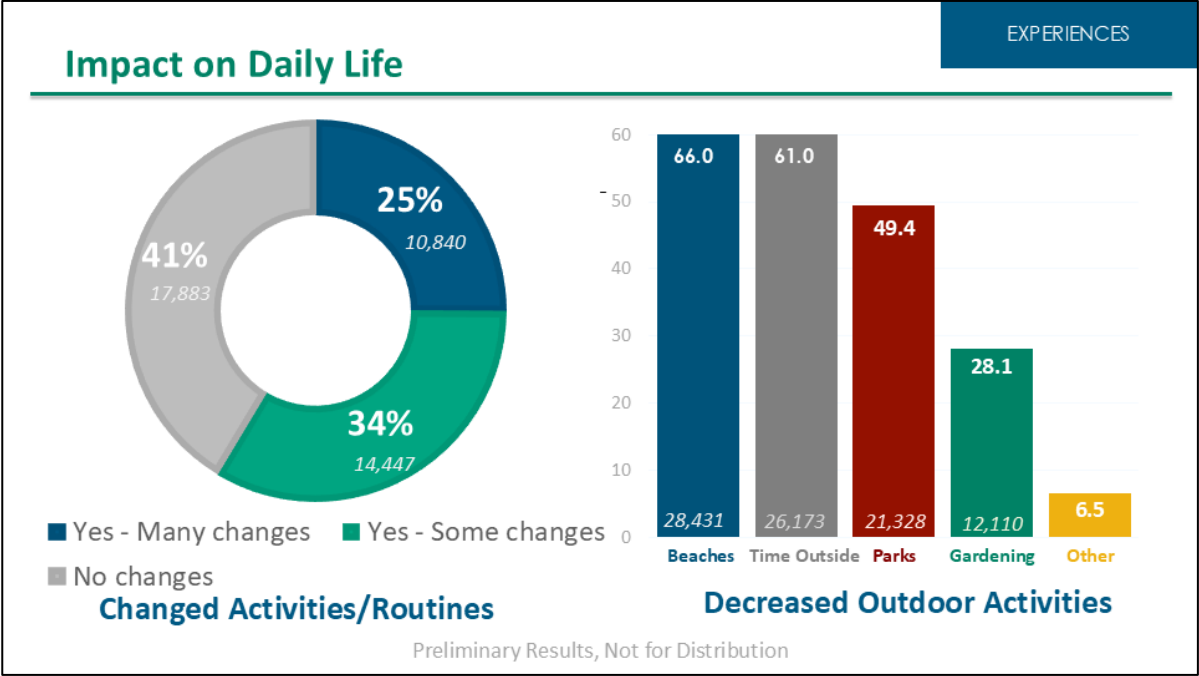
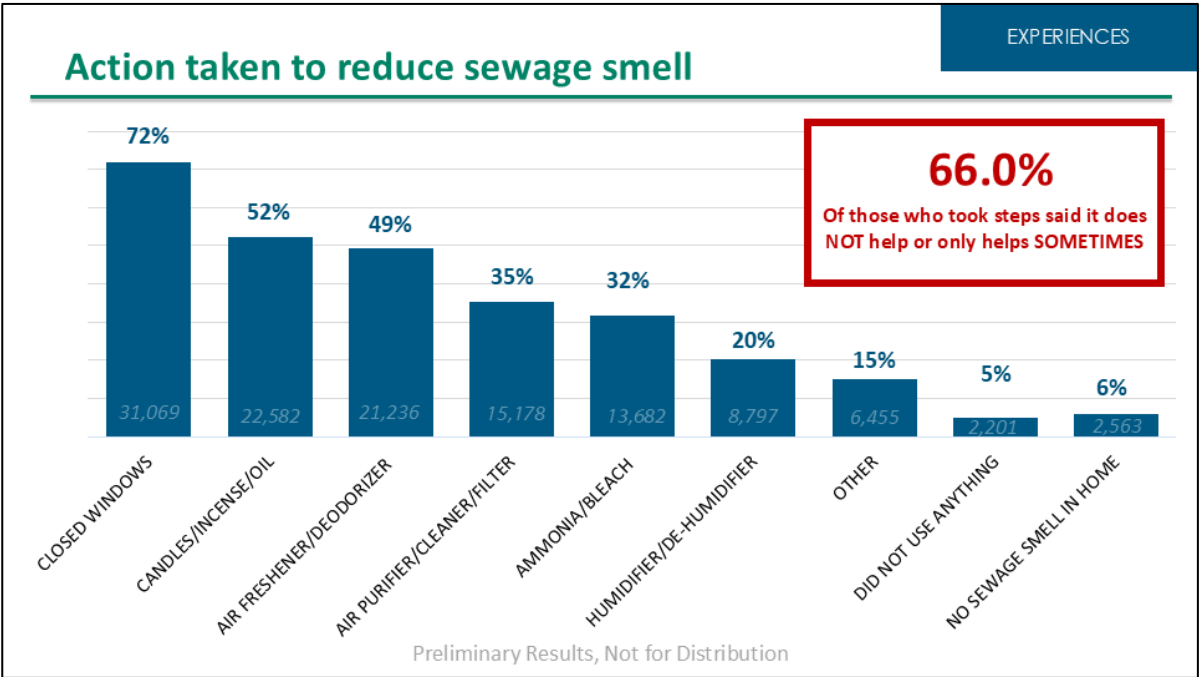
BACKGROUND

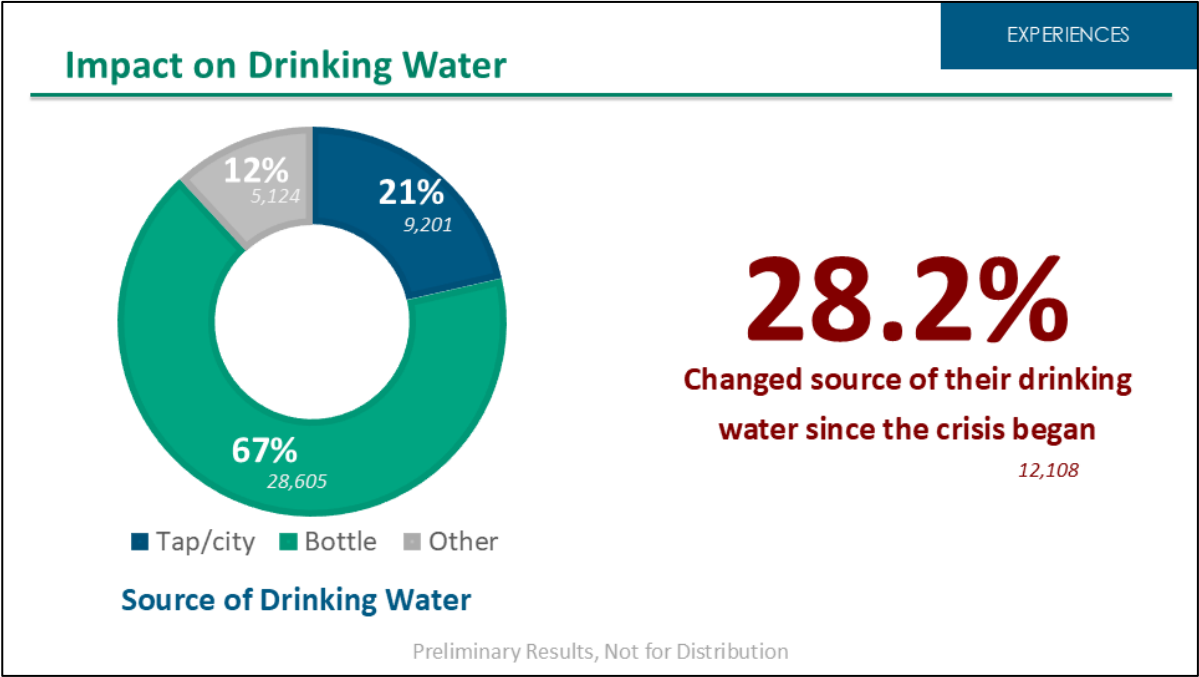
Designed to represent the 40,911 households in the South Bay/Tijuana River Valley Region

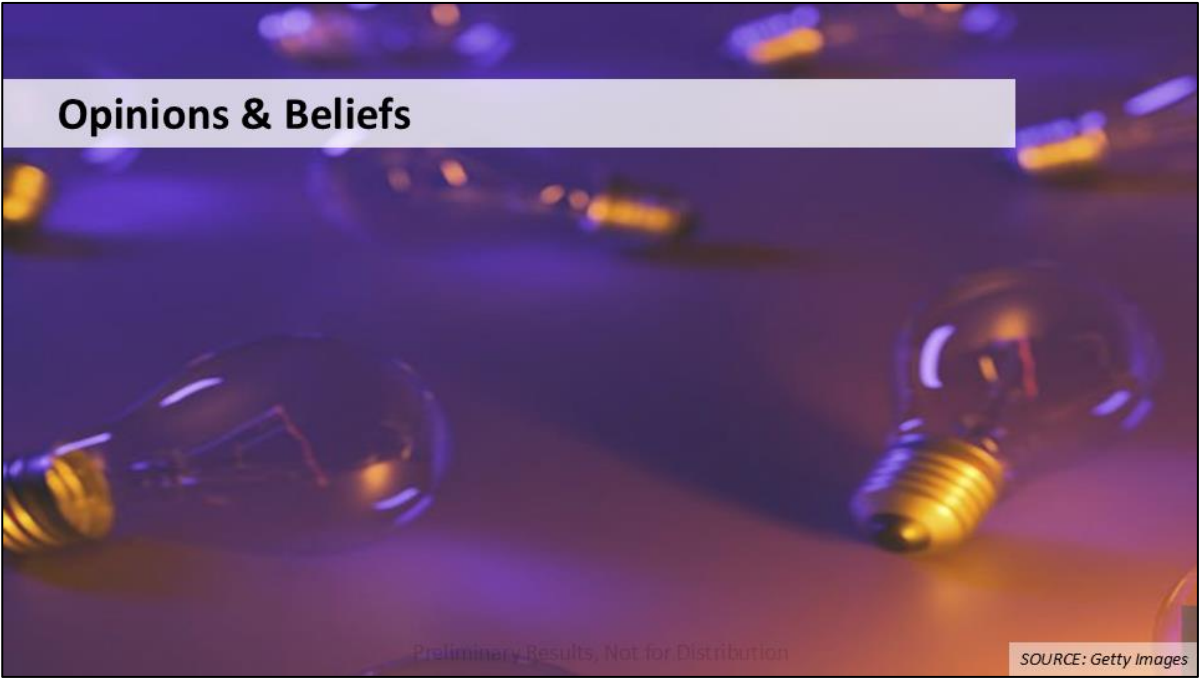
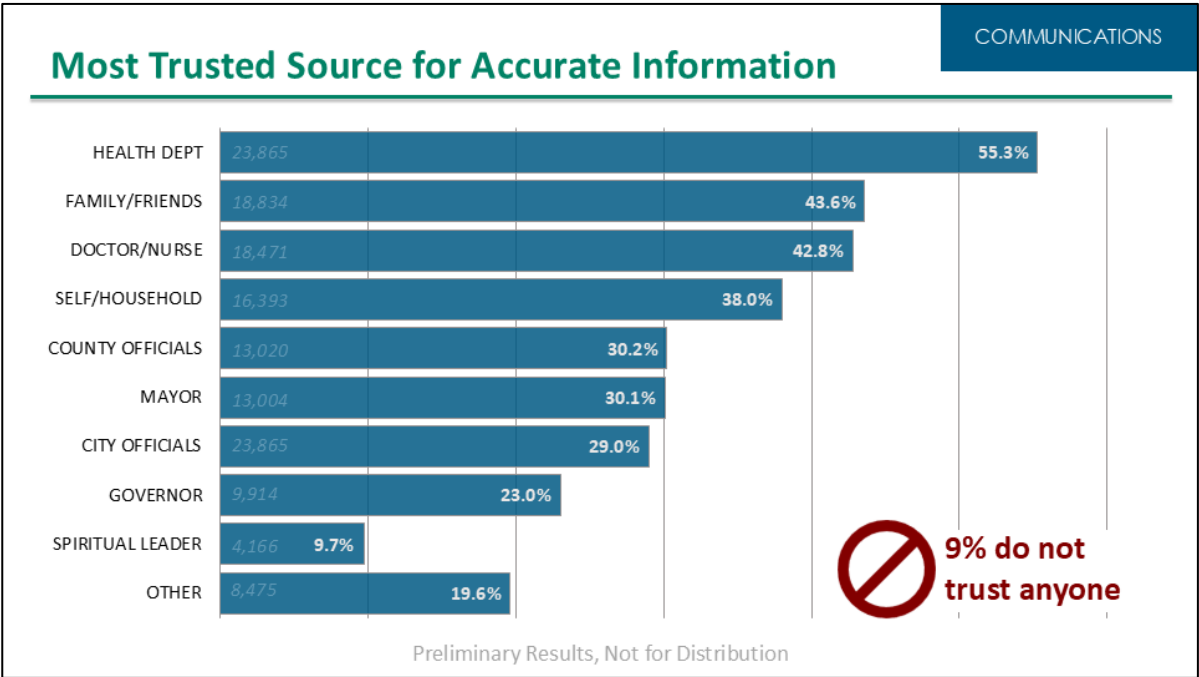






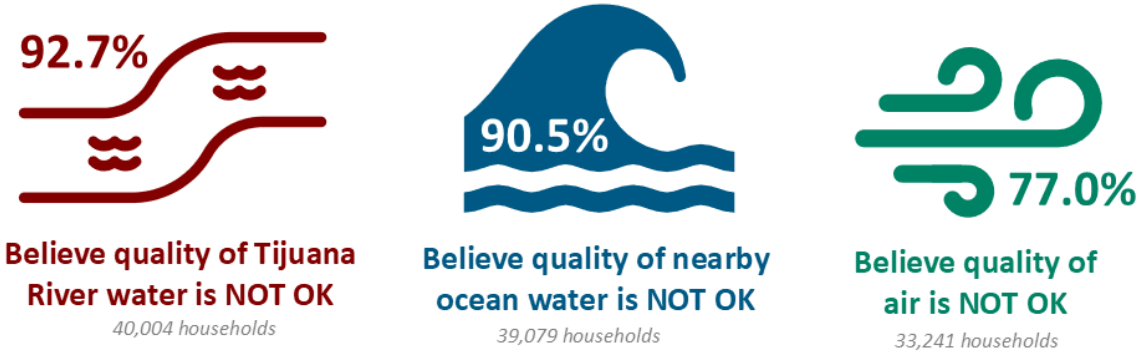






Household Beliefs

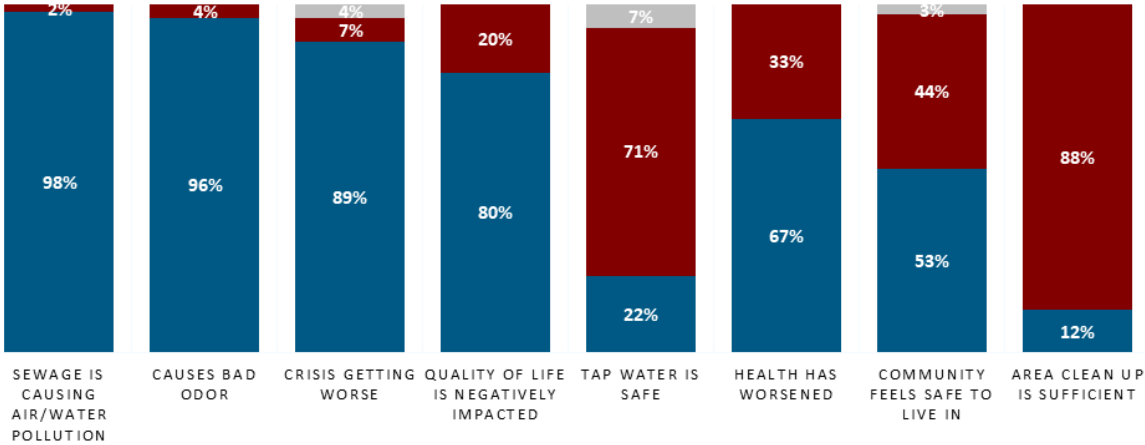
OPINIONS



Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

Household Opinions on the Crisis

OPINIONS



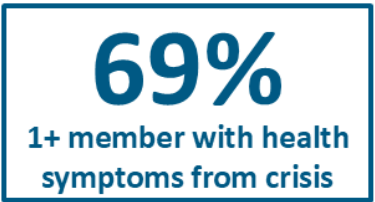
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Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

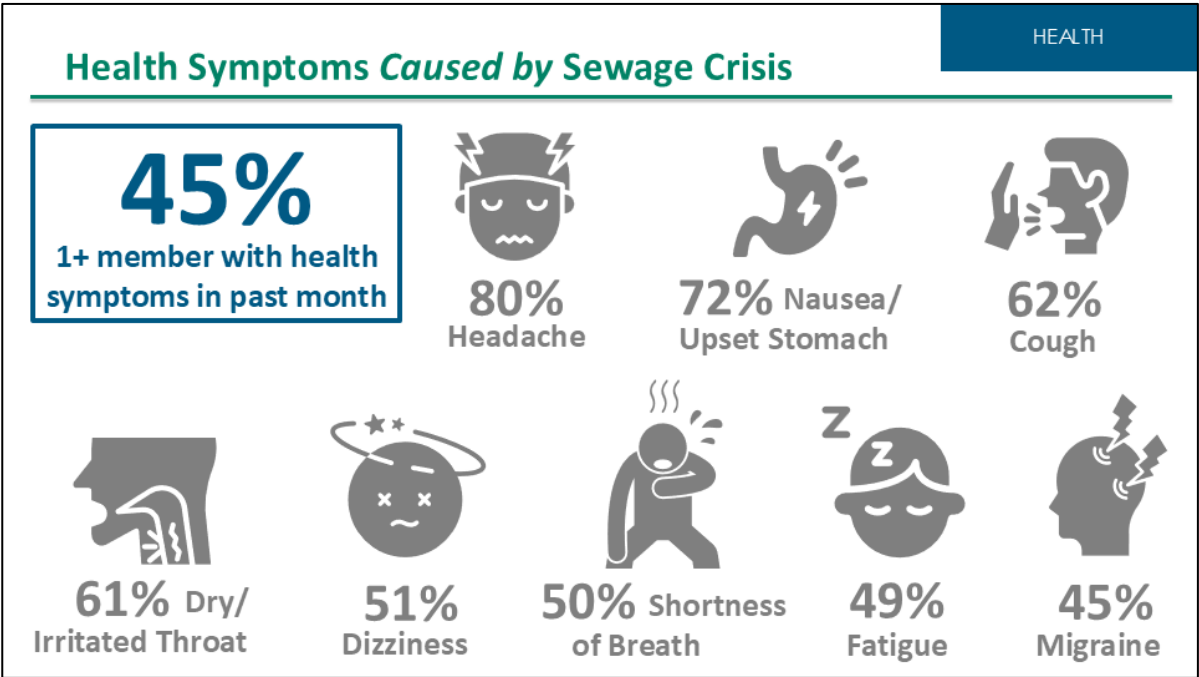


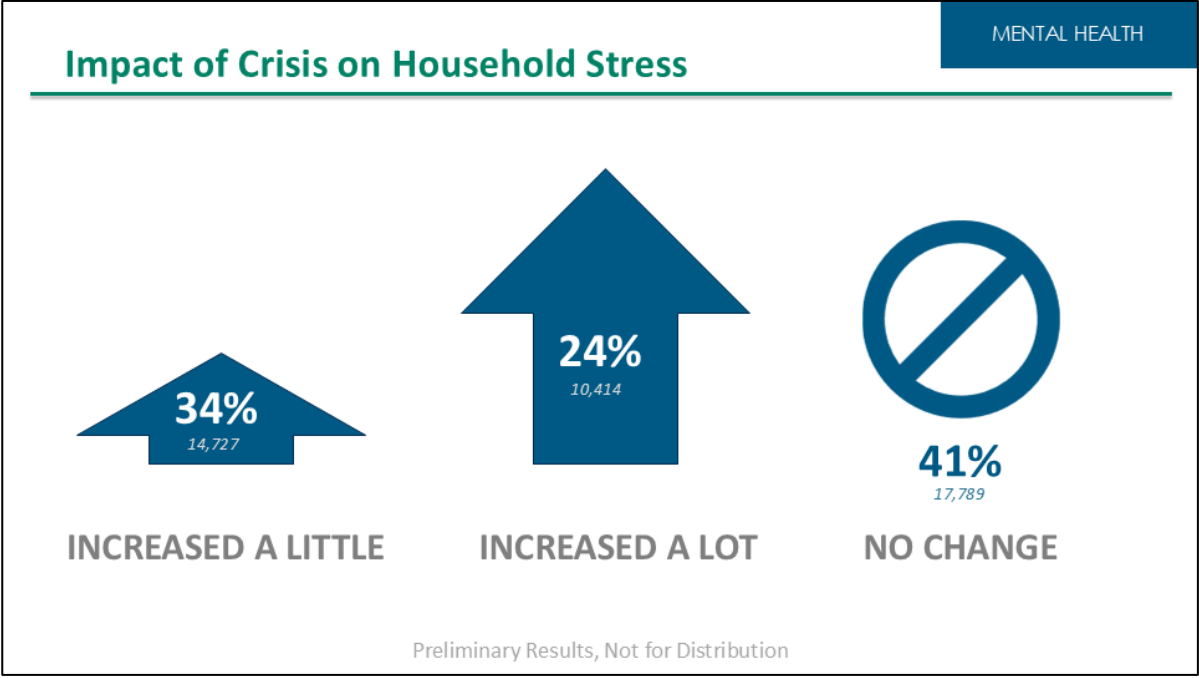
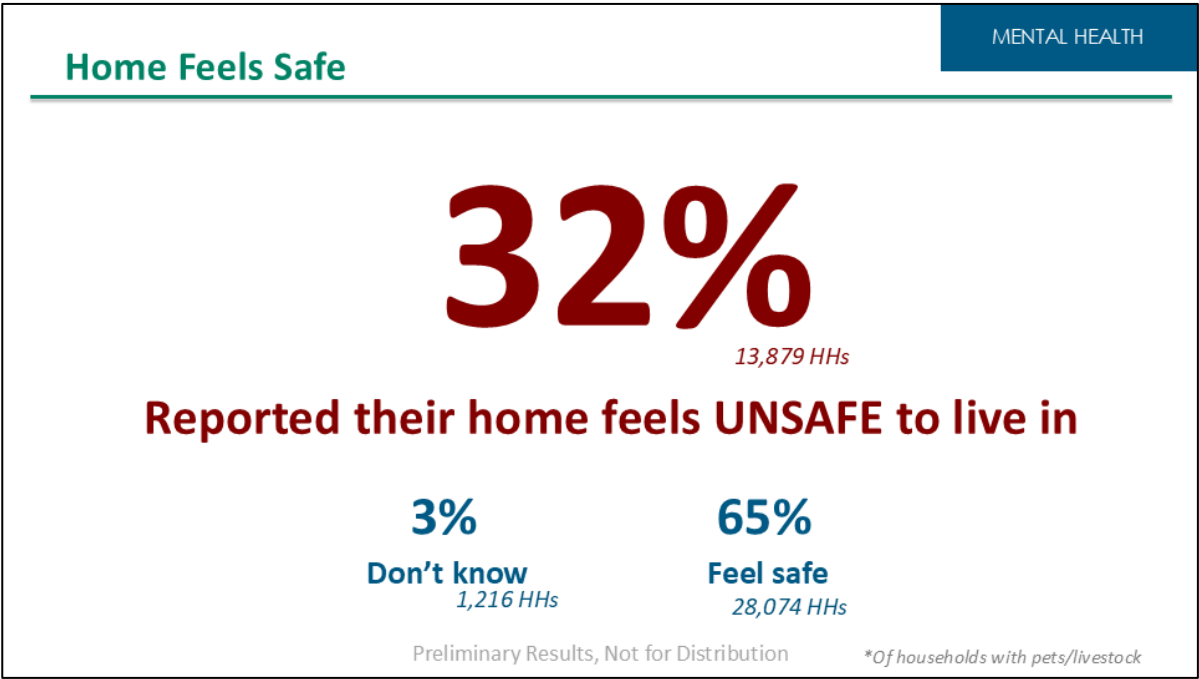
Household Health

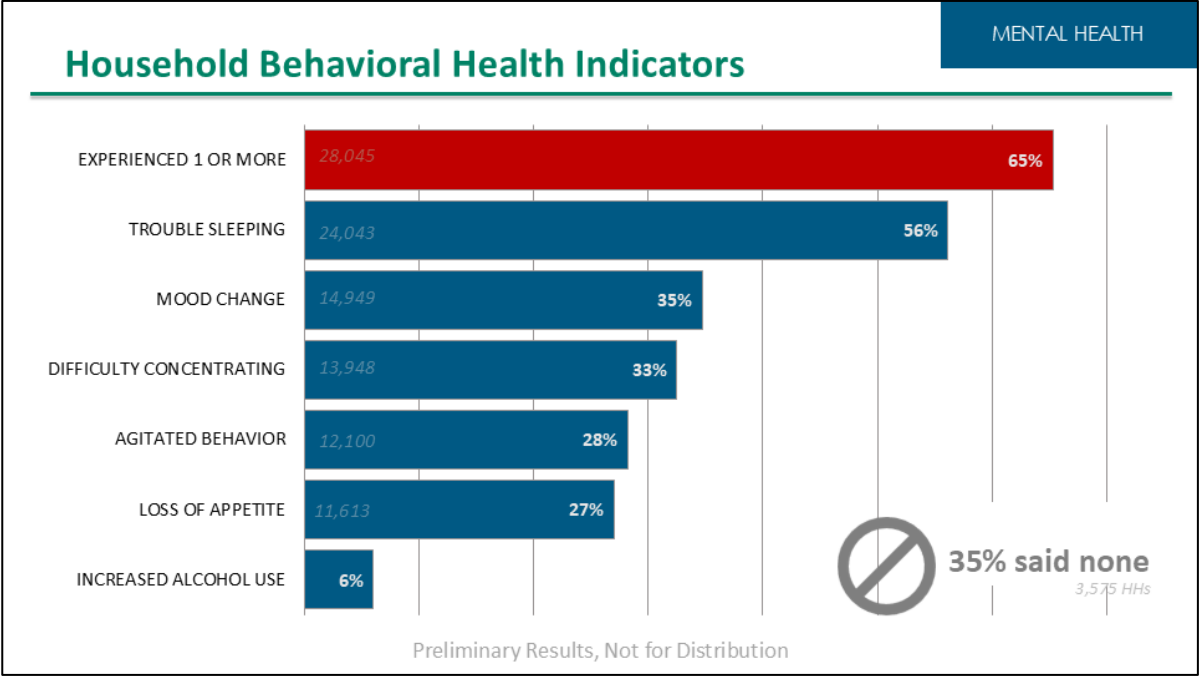
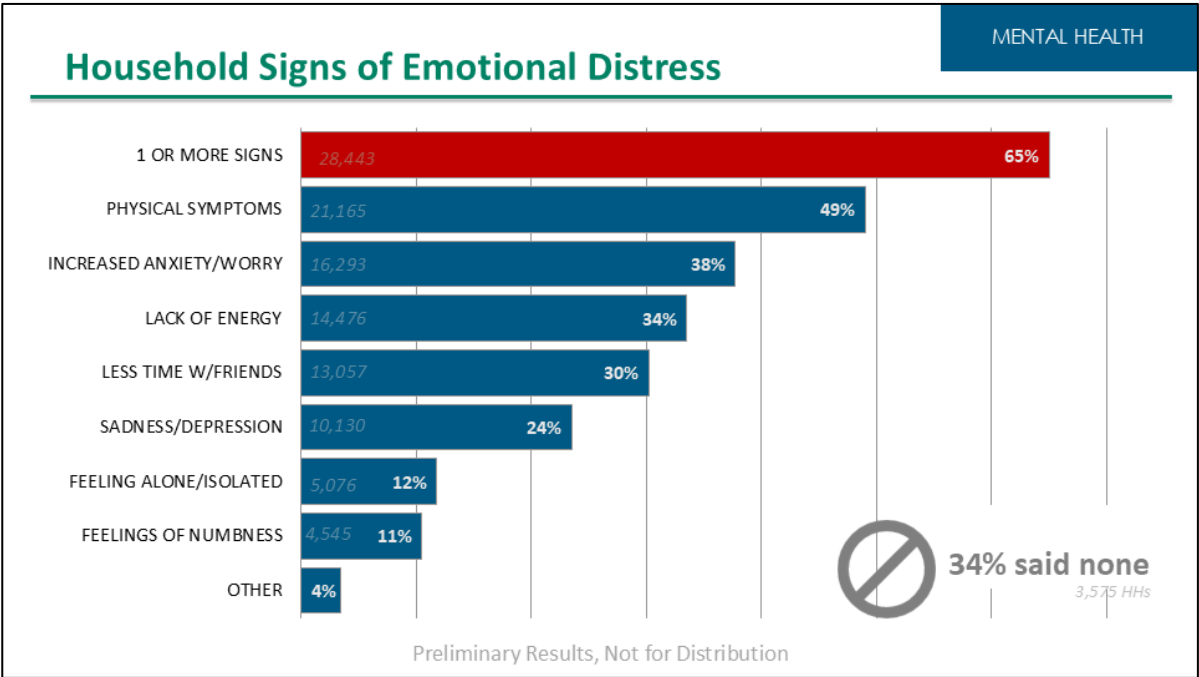
HEALTH

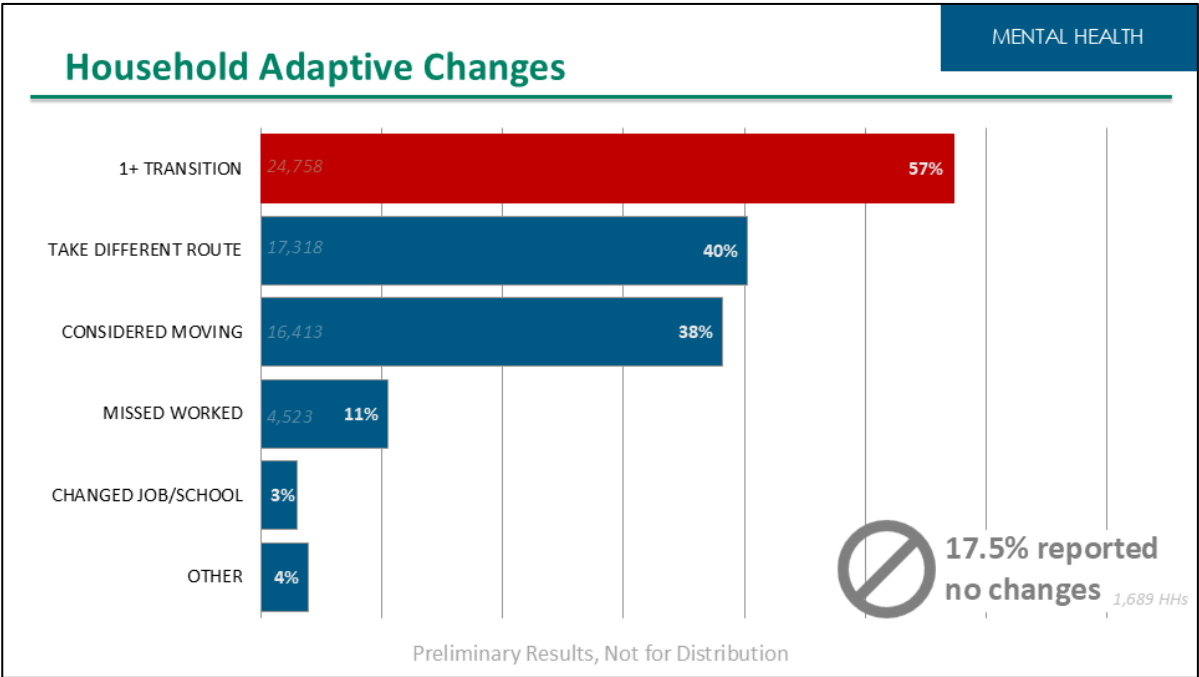


Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution









- MENTAL HEALTH
- ### Key Findings: Household Experiences
- 87% are somewhat or very concerned about the sewage crisis
 - 81% are MOST concerned about health of HH members
 - 70% had 1+ disruption to their household life
 - 77% believe the quality of the air in the area is not OK
 - 71% do not believe their HH tap water is safe to drink
 - 65% have 1+ worsening health conditions in the past month
 - 58% reported overall stress level has increased
 - 63% reported 1+ signs of emotional distress
 - 65% experienced 1+ behavioral health indicators
- Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

County of San Diego: Actions Being Taken



County of San Diego Action Taken

■ Collaboration, Coordination, & Advocacy for South Bay Communities

- Continue our Monthly Meetings:
 - South Bay School Districts Leadership Meeting
 - South Bay Health Care Clinics and FQHCs
 - All Agency Meeting- Continue Monthly meeting with local, state, and federal partners

Local

- San Diego Air Pollution Control District
- County of San Diego
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

State

- California EPA
- State Water Resource Control Board
- California Department of Public Health
- Coastal Commission
- California Air Resources Board (CARB)

Federal

- US Environmental Protection Agency
- Agency for TOXIC Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
- Office of Community Health Hazard Assessment (OCHHA)
- National Center for Environmental Health
- International Boundary & Water Commission

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

County of San Diego Action Taken

■ Collaboration, Coordination, & Advocacy

- In May 2024, ATSDR received a petition from members of California's congressional delegation requesting that CDC/ATSDR investigate the public health impacts of wastewater contamination in the Tijuana River and surrounding communities.
- ATSDR worked with the County and APCD to secure data for the petition.
 - ATSDR response activities will include (1/8/25):
 - Conduct a public health assessment of hydrogen sulfide in air
 - Analyze air monitoring data to determine whether breathing hydrogen sulfide in air near the Tijuana River could harm people's health.
 - Will also determine whether surface water, sediment, and biota data are sufficient for public health assessment purposes.
- County will continue to collaborate with ATSDR for response activities.

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution



County of San Diego Actions Taken

■ Drinking Water Concerns

- Letter sent by Interim PHO to State Water Board, Deputy Secretary and Special Council on Water Policy with specific actions:
 - **Educate the community** through proactive outreach, media, and social media on how drinking water is tested and kept safe in their community
 - Explore increasing the **frequency of testing of drinking water** to ensure the water remains safe and share these results with the community
- Working closely with Cal-Am and other regional water agencies and regional Water Board on their messaging.

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution



County of San Diego Actions Taken

■ Mental Health Concerns

- Working with County Behavioral Health Services (BHS) on education and health promotion
 - [Mental Wellness Resource Directory](#)
 - [Community Toolkit](#) available in multiple languages
 - Distributed mental health resources during ACE survey to South Bay participants
- Promote 988 crisis line for resources and mental health evaluations
- Consider messaging through insurance carriers on mental health services available
- Focused partnership with key Outpatient Providers
 - BHS' Communication & Engagement Team
 - South Region Collaborative

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution



County of San Diego Actions Taken

■ Healthcare Provider as Trusted Messenger

- Distributed information on ACE survey to FHCSD, SYHCSD, South Bay Clinics, Kaiser to increase participation from vulnerable populations.
- Continue Meeting with South Bay Clinic providers to update on surveillance activities, ongoing projects, and receive real time feedback on clinic data related to the sewage crisis.
- Working on separate project to improve clinic level surveillance provided to the health department.

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution



County of San Diego Actions Taken

■ Increased Pet health concerns

- One Health Epidemiology team (Veterinarians + Epidemiologists) housed in the health department:
 - Engaging with vets, animal hospitals, and Humane Society in South region on sewage related pet concerns
 - Inquiring about cases of concern linked to the sewage crisis and obtaining data streams and no increases in illness, pet deaths noted



Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

County of San Diego Actions Taken

■ Other Efforts

- Air Purifier Distribution by APCD
 - Initial Distribution Events
 - Children, Seniors, Proximity to Wastewater Flows
 - 3 events in December. 300+ filters distributed
 - Expand to Wider Community in late January
 - Online Registration Portal
 - Direct Delivery from Manufacturer
 - Additional Partner Distribution Events
- UCSD Predictive Modeling - County helping develop advance resident warning of air pollution events.



Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

County of San Diego Actions Taken

- **Assessment for Chemical Exposures (ACE) survey**
- **County partnered with ATSDR on ACE**
 - Closed on November 22, 2024.
 - ~2,150 surveys completed.
 - Results anticipated in early 2025.
 - Will provide further individual level data for sewage related exposure concerns for South Bay residents.



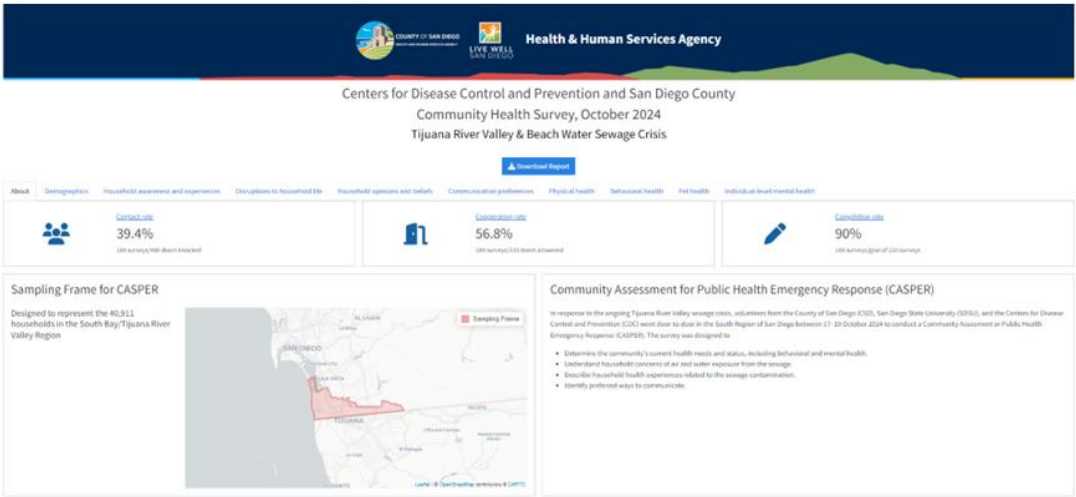
Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

CASPER Communications Plan

- Board Briefings
- City managers (Imperial Beach, Coronado, and San Diego)
- Local, State, and Federal Elected officials
- SDSU students, UCSD, and County CASPER participants
- Tijuana River Valley Taskforce
- Local, State, and Federal Agencies, South Bay School Superintendents and the Board of Education, South Bay FQHCs and Healthcare Providers, and South Region Promotoras/Community Health Worker Briefings, South Region Community Leadership
- Dedicated website with multiple resources for community and school specific guidance, CASPER dashboard and CDC full result in multiple languages ([South Region Health Concerns](#))

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

CASPER Dashboard Live Jan 16



Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

Closing

- **Focus on the Root Cause**
 - Appreciate the state and federal advocacy to fix the sewage infrastructure
 - Significant Funding has been acquired to fix sewage infrastructure
 - Reopening of the San Antonio de los Buenos treatment plant south of Tijuana on the Mexican coast. The plant is due to be operational again in mid-January.
 - Once online, it will take on 18 million gallons of sewage a day, decreasing impacts on the coastline on both sides of the border.
 - Continued local, state, and federal engagement using scientifically validated study results for advocacy of additional TJRV funding

Preliminary Results, Not for Distribution

THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS?

Dr. Ankita Kadakia, Interim Public Health Officer

Ankita.Kadakia@sdcounty.ca.gov

Elizabeth Hernandez, Director of Public Health Services

Liz.Hernandez@sdcounty.ca.gov

Questions and Comments:

Barry Jantz: You mentioned when you showed a slide with the federal partners--I'm assuming the County's putting those federal partners together and driving those meetings. Is anybody at the federal level taking the lead of those partners or would you say the County's taking the lead and asking the federal partners to be at the table?

Dr. Kadakia: Well, we asked the federal partners to be at the table, but they did come to our meetings and they have been for several months. Of course, with the communication pause that you know in our last meeting they weren't able to participate but our state partners still continue to do so.

Name: And then you mentioned the FQHCs--for anyone who wants to know, that's Federally Qualified Health Centers--but you mentioned those you're partnering with. And I saw Kaiser, I saw Family Health Centers in San Diego, I saw San Ysidro Health. What about considering they have hospitals that serve there? What about Sharp, Scripps, Paradise Valley?

Dr. Kadakia: We have provided information separately to the hospitals, but this was in particular for the federally qualified health centers, knowing that a majority of--many of the patients were coming to FQAC as their primary health providers.

Dr. Harriet Seldin: I just wondered, this is all talking on the U.S. side of everything, but a lot of the sewage is coming from whatever direction it is, but south of the border. Any change there in what's happening in the treatment in Mexico or effects there?

Dr. Kadakia: On the Mexico side, they are building a plant, a sewage treatment plant that was there, and they rebuilt it and IBWC or the International Boundary and Water Commission has been providing updates in terms of how far along our Mexican partners are but they are also similarly involved and have been involved in other meetings.

James Lepanto: Dr. Kadakia, thanks so much for coming back. I know that you came and presented to the board earlier when this was being implemented. What impresses me about this initially is the collaborative effort. People really came together across the County, certainly in South County, to make this happen. And thank you to the residents who actually spoke and engaged. It says a lot about what the approach did to allow residents to trust answering the questions on the survey. I also appreciate the proactive things that the County and public health is doing in HHSA and not just waiting, but-- it's been so long. We've had this going on for so long. Time is of the essence and that you've already enacted some things that can make a difference. My question to you though is now with the CDC like you said it can take up to two years. One, how you know we're in a changing time right now. How can we keep it in the front as a priority for the CDC? This is something that we've been dealing with for decades now probably. So that's my first question, and that it's a priority. And secondly, is there anything this board can do to help, you know, recommendations to the County, recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, which they're well aware of the need and been supportive?

Dr. Kadakia: You know, just because there is the federal pause on communication doesn't mean that we don't expect our federal agencies to come back to the table, hopefully eventually. But it also doesn't mean that we just sit and wait. We've certainly shown you that we decided to take action, regardless, and we'll still continue to do so. There's still activities that are planned. We're still continuing our meetings that we have with our local health partners, our local community members as well as we lean into this. We're still continuing to work with our state water board and our regional water board and our local water companies as well. There's still many things that we can do at a local level that doesn't require the federal action. But I'll also say that despite federal health agencies not being able to communicate, we still have communication with our federal elected officials who we've been advocating for. I attended a meeting last week where I advocated and provided this presentation and hearing that they're working on the additional funding that we need to fix that sewage infrastructure. So there still continues to be a lot of work that is ongoing and will continue regardless, but we do hope to see our federal agency partners come back to the table.

Judith Yates: My question is actually a subtitle, if you will, for his question, because I took note of your saying that the ACE survey was going to be particularly useful and important for how you develop certain actions. And then that has been interrupted by the Federal pause. But if it goes on for so long, is there a point in which the ACE survey is no longer viable or useful?

Dr. Ankita Kadakia: I think any data that we can get, and we welcome data from from any scientist who is providing that data. I know there's universities and researchers that are providing, that are looking into research. And this, of course, once

it is released, we'd love for it to be released in this first quarter so we can have that data closer to what we've been doing. But I still think it would be useful because these are voices that are being captured in a real, in a scientific way. And there just simply hasn't been enough long-term data in terms of the health impact. And this is I think still a good way to capture that data. The other thing I didn't mention that no one asked me yet is, can a CASPER be done again, and we actually are looking into having a follow-up right after these implementations, this plan is put in place and we take a number of actions, it's good to do a reassessment. Has anything changed? Have the lives of individuals in the South Bay that are affected, you know, has it improved at all with the number of actions that are currently being taken? But I think it's always good to bring awareness regardless of the results for the ACE are, you know, given now versus later to release that because that is data from South Bay residents themselves and really speaks to what they've been going through. And again, this is decades long, so I feel that even if we released it late, it's still valid given how long this crisis has been going on.

Judith Yates: I wasn't going to question them, just in terms of and what several of us have mentioned is this is not anything new. This is going on for such a long time and so one might say data being released a quarter later than what you expected is not a big deal. It seems to me we're at a point that every moment matters to the individuals--and not just to the individuals, but to all of us that call this our home. And so I really I feel a little bit despairing of the pause and what that is ultimately going to do to your being effectively able to continue the good work you are doing.

Dr. Kadakia: I wish I had control of the Federal agencies but I don't. I only work for our public health department but we will do what we can as a County and as a public health department and do our part.

Victoria Floyd: I just wanted to know for the latest with the water quality for the tap water what are the assurances there, what data do they have to point to the state water board to make sure that residents at this point know that they're good to drink that water?

Dr. Kadakia: Heather, do you want to take that? I'll introduce Heather Buonomo who is our Director of our Department of Environmental Quality and Health.

Heather Buonomo: So the state water resource control board oversees drinking water regulations and there's several agencies, drinking water agencies in this region, whether it's Cal Am, Sweetwater, Otay, or City of San Diego. So they do have regulations where they're regularly testing that water. And to be clear, that water is not sourced from the TJ River Valley. And so it's really just, you know, providing more information and outreach to the public to let them know that those water sources are safe. And so that's something we've really been trying to work with them on to put out some more public messaging and help educate the community on the safety of that water.

James Lepanto: Just real quick. And by the way, you guys are all doing a great job. So thank you. Do we know of the--being binational, and that being as important as it is for us here--do we know if Mexico has done a similar survey or analysis of the impacts on the other side of the border, Tijuana, that area, on the health issues associated with this?

Dr. Ankita Kadakia: I'm sorry James, I don't have the answer to what they're doing on the Mexican side.

	<p>Barry Jantz: We should find out.</p> <p>Dr. Ankita Kadakia: We can try to reach out and see if we can get that information.</p> <p>Imani Robinson: I just wanted to know if the public is allowed to speak.</p> <p>Barry Jantz: Since we're not taking any action, later in the agenda will be an opportunity for the public to speak to items that are on the agenda. And I think I'd like to hold off till then, because if we open it up now we may end up with a bunch of public comments and we've got some other agenda items we want to get to.</p> <p>Imani Robinson: Yes, so will the people that's able to answer the questions, will they continue to be here?</p> <p>Barry Jantz: Will you be here to answer questions after the meeting?</p> <p>Dr. Kadakia: Sure.</p> <p>Barry Jantz: Great. There may be some people who want to talk to you now, but I can't control that part. So if there's nothing else, thank you so much. It's really thorough and detailed, and I think we're all very happy that the County is focused on this. We understand there's a lot of folks outside the County that have ultimate control on taking the action that needs to be taken. And the County can't even begin to think about it and understand that. There's a Federal solution and there may be a bi-national solution, but we appreciate the County being focused on this and working with the partners.</p>
<p>IV. ITEM FOR CONSENT</p> <p>A. Approval of 2025-2027 HSAB Strategic Plan</p>	<p>a. Motion to approve the HSAB Strategic Plan, with the addition of Victoria Floyd listed under District 2, was made by James Lepanto and seconded by Judith Yates.</p> <p>b. Roll Call: All HSAB members in attendance voted Aye.</p> <p>c. Barry Jantz: Geysil and I did meet earlier with Nora and Amber and the team. And we did say no reason to be here today. We'll let you know if something goes sideways. So they'll probably be very happy. But the next step was to discuss how we're going to track. How are we going to implement and track? And it sounds like they had some discussion with Anuj in advance of our meeting today. And they put together a document that looks really good. It looks simple as far as tracking. There needs to be a little discussion about how that input is going to be provided into what is really a Word document tracking form that follows the strategic plan and then it's a place for us, as we have meetings and knock off some of these items, to track it and list it, and also as a way to feed those items into our work plan so we know when to put things on agenda to make sure we're staying on track. So Geysil and I need to have a little bit more discussion with that. We'll discuss with Anuj and there'll be more information on that.</p> <p>Geysil Arroyo: And I believe that the team recommended that we do some monitoring every quarter.</p> <p>Barry Jantz: Right. So more to follow on that. We just want you to know that it isn't a strategic plan that now you've adopted, we're going to wait three years before we do our next strategic plan and that will be the next time we discuss it. We're talking about how to implement it within our regular work process and how to track our progress.</p>

V. ITEM FOR APPROVAL

- A. Authorization to Accept Tobacco Grant Program Funding, Adopt a Resolution, and Authorize Applications for Additional Funding Opportunities, **Rhonda Freeman**, MPH, Branch Chief, Maternal Child and Family Health Services Branch

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT TOBACCO TAX FUNDING AND APPLY FOR FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting
February 4, 2025

Rhonda Freeman, M.P.H. Branch Chief
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services

SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA

OVERVIEW



- In December of 2020, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved a new Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance.
- The Tobacco Retail Licensing Program in Public Health Services is responsible for oversight of the County’s Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance.
- Oversight includes administration, education, compliance verification and enforcement activities.
- The goal is to limit youth access to tobacco products and reduce the initiation of overall tobacco use by County residents.



AWARD INFORMATION



- **Award:** \$2,402,082
- **Source:** California Department of Justice
- **Funding & Project Period:** July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028
- **Project Goal:** To enhance the efforts of the County's Tobacco Retail Licensing Program and to increase compliance to the County's Tobacco Retail Licensing Ordinance.
- **Target Population:** Approximately 260 tobacco retailers in the unincorporated area of San Diego County.



PLANNED USE FOR FUNDS



1. Conduct at least one annual compliance check for all retailers (259) in the unincorporated area of the county focusing on the sale of flavored products, pricing, and packaging to increase retailer compliance with the Ordinance by at least 15%.
2. Create a retailer education option for at least 80% of retailers cited for selling to minors for the first-time during annual minor decoy operations.
3. Expand data management system to include compliance tracking.



RECOMMENDATIONS



- 1. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires prior approval of grant applications and full cost recovery of grants.
- 2. Authorize the acceptance of \$2,402,082 in grant funds from the California Department of Justice for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, to conduct tobacco retail licensing activities.
- 3. Adopt a resolution of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors authorizing acceptance of a grant from the state of California Department of Justice Tobacco Grant Program under Proposition 56, the Healthcare, Research, and Prevention Tobacco Tax Act of 2016.
- 4. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of the Health and Human Services Agency, or designee to apply for additional funding opportunity announcements, if available.





THANK YOU



HIP POCKET


[SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA](https://sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa)



TOBACCO USE IN SAN DIEGO

Information from the 2023 California Health Interview Survey for San Diego County found:

- The percentage of high school students who reported current usage of any tobacco product is 9.0%.
- Overall, 9.7% of adults reported currently using a non-cigarette tobacco product.
- Roughly 40.4% of adult cigarette smokers reported using menthol cigarettes.



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OBJECTIVES



The funding helps to support of following County objectives and initiative:

- **The Public Health Services 22-25 Strategic Plan, Strategy for the Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services Branch (MCFHS):** To “reduce promotions of tobacco products, exposure to secondhand smoke, and access to tobacco products through the Tobacco Control Resource Program in order to prevent smoking and encourage tobacco cessation.”
- **The County Operations plan FY 23-24 & 24-25 and MCFHS strategic plan FY 23-25:** To ensure that at least 50% of retailers in the unincorporated area of San Diego County comply with youth access laws prohibiting sales to anyone under age 21.
- **The countywide *Live Well San Diego* vision** by providing funding to activities that will promote a healthy, safe, and thriving region.

[SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA](https://sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Over the past two years the program has successfully:

- Licensed over 260 retailers.
- Created and implemented an appeals process for retailers disputing fines, licenses denials and license suspensions.
- In Fiscal Year 23-24 Minor Decoy Operations showed that 33% of retailers (80) sold to minors out of 241 outlets.
- 30-day license suspensions were issued to 10 retailers.
 - Nine retailers appealed the suspensions (All were upheld).
 - Eight suspensions were waived in lieu of retailers doing education as a one-time alternative.

OBJECTIVES



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- **The Public Health Services 22-25 Strategic Plan, Strategy for the Maternal, Child, and Family Health Services Branch (MCFHS):** To “reduce promotions of tobacco products, exposure to secondhand smoke, and access to tobacco products through the Tobacco Control Resource Program in order to prevent smoking and encourage tobacco cessation.”
- **The County Operations plan FY 23-24 & 24-25 and MCFHS strategic plan FY 23-25:** To ensure that at least 50% of retailers in the unincorporated area of San Diego County comply with youth access laws prohibiting sales to anyone under age 21.
- **The countywide *Live Well San Diego* vision** by providing funding to activities that will promote a healthy, safe, and thriving region.

[SANDIEGOCOUNTY.GOV/HHSA](https://sandiegocounty.gov/hhsa)

FISCAL IMPACT



TOTAL AWARD: \$2,402,082

FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY27/28
\$766,918	\$800,019	\$835,145

Personnel Services	Operating Expenses & Equipment Costs	Administrative Costs
\$1,204,275	\$1,083,424	\$114,383

Questions and Comments:

Barry Jantz: Years ago, the city of El Cajon was way ahead of the curve on the program they set up with you. I know I'm dating myself, but can I ask what year that was when they first got that going?

Rebecca Branstetter: I'm gonna ask you not to hold me to this, but it was about 2006. So that was the gold standard for a long time.

Barry Jantz: And in fact we won't even say that your acronym used to be different.

Rebecca Branstetter: We won't say that.

Barry Jantz: In case anybody wants to know, it used to be Communities Against Substance Abuse. But I like your acronym better now.

Victoria Floyd: For the 28% that are not compliant, are they working toward compliance? Are they being cooperative? And what are the penalties then? What have you seen with that 28%?

Rebecca Branstetter: Right now what they're working on, of course it's--okay, I'm going to back you up just a little bit. This is an administrative action against their license. It's not criminal. I mean, it's not even really civil. So, which doesn't sound right, it's not a civil penalty. They're very civil about the way they go about this. And so what's been happening with enforcement is that the County staff and the violating retailer come together for a hearing. And the hearing is conducted in front of somebody who knows their way around health. And so what happens is they work with them to find out a way, figure out a way that they can do better without necessarily suffering first shot out of the barrel the worst possible consequences. The goal being from our perspective is, do better and protect our kids like they're your kids. So, so far we'll have to see how it all plays out because this is the first year that I believe that we're doing full enforcement. We've been collecting some outstanding data, we know what's going on, but as far as I know--I don't want to speak for the department—but the enforcement is moving along in ways that help educate retailers.

Judith Yates: So with this, thank you for informing us. With the data that you're collecting now, and you're down, I believe, in the 28% that are still not compliant, are you able to identify geographically? Is there any part of our County where there is more that are still resistant?

Rebecca Branstetter: It really kind of goes all over the place. We did a short route yesterday that had an 80% violation rate. But it's very remote. It's very remote. But that really isn't reflective of overall because it happens all over unincorporated. It happens all over unincorporated.

James Lepanto: First of all, if you need an older decoy, I know I'm a Boomer but I'm all in. But my question is, and I appreciate the numbers going down, and I understand this is a process of education, working with them, engaging, doing all the things that they do, but what happens with repeat offenders that have had one citation, I don't know what you guys do,

	<p>but if it's a citation, a warning, what happens if they repeat this? Are there any teeth that we can--I mean, what happens?</p> <p>Rhonda Freeman: So there are different processes--you have license suspension. And Kirk and Danica, feel free to chime in if I'm saying anything incorrectly. But there is a process that you go through if they're a repeat offender. So yeah, it's not continuous education. After a certain number of times your license can get suspended and you get fined and so on.</p> <p>a. A motion to approve the item was made by Jack Dailey and seconded by Geysil Arroyo.</p> <p>b. Roll Call: All HSAB members in attendance voted Aye.</p>
VI. CHAIR'S REPORT	<p>A. Youth Engagement:</p> <p>Barry Jantz: Because the County does not have a Chair of the Board of Supervisors, but there is an Acting Chair, we are pursuing that. And we have a couple of discussion points with Supervisor Tara Lawson-Remer, and one is the youth engagement process and the other one is whether there's going to be a vacancy in that other season. We're going to be taking up those items. And there is definitely an interest by her and her staff to discuss this, so that's great.</p> <p>B. Discussion of Process for Election of Officers and Related Nominating Committee:</p> <p>Barry Jantz: We had this on the agenda last time. We didn't come to a conclusion about whether we needed a nominating committee, although there was certainly an interest in reaching out to see if anybody else was interested in being the Chair or the Vice Chair. And I think Anuj, you reached out a couple of times and asked?</p> <p>Dr. Anuj Bhatia: None of the members indicated interest. One did recommend that yourselves continue on as chairs.</p> <p>Barry Jantz: So none expressed any interest, did that include Geysil and I? We didn't express any interest? Okay, I don't think we were counted in that. Did everybody get to weigh in if they wanted to on that? We didn't want to leave anybody out. Great. So it's not on the agenda for a vote, so we wouldn't suggest that. It's just that I think unless there's a need or anybody feels like we need to seat a nominating committee, maybe we'll just look at the appropriate time frame because it's every two years when we do this. I think it may have been May two years ago. In the next couple months, I guess we'll put it on the agenda and let you all, if we get nominated, we'll let you all vote.</p> <p>C. HSAB Community Inspiration Awards Nomination Process</p> <p>Barry Jantz: James has been doing a stellar job on this and he's actually got a little report for us today.</p>

James Lepanto: Very little. Okay. I just want to say to those of you in the audience that may not know, Health Services Advisory Board developed what we call Community Inspiration Awards. And these are awards that are given throughout San Diego for grassroots individuals and organizations. You know, large organizations get a lot of kudos and they do wonderful work, but we really wanted to encourage people in their neighborhoods and their communities to make a difference as well. There's so much good work going on through San Diego County that don't always get the recognition and also work that can inspire others to get involved and to want to make a difference. So we are in the process. We did it several times before COVID. We took a break during COVID and now we're starting it up again. So we're in the process of discussing the logistics of how we're going to do this again. We're also going to start a youth engagement award because one of our goals, we talked about youth engagement, is one of the county's initiatives is more engagement for young people on boards. HSAB agrees with that and we want young people to have a voice. Their health is just as important, and they're another important voice for us to listen to. So we're looking at how we can engage youth more as a part of the board. So we're adding that award. We recognize organizations, we recognize individuals, and we're now going to add a youth to that that's making a difference in their community. So we are continuing our discussions with the county of how to operationalize this and we'll report as soon as we have more to say.

Barry Jantz: Great. Thank you. And we are still potentially looking at May, correct?

James Lepanto: That's one of the discussion points there. We may need to extend that to maybe the summer. But we'll report out on that next month.

D. Cancelled Room Reservations for HSAB Meeting dates for May, June and November of 2025

Barry Jantz: This next item, Anuj, I'm going to let you take it because I don't know what it is.

Dr. Anuj Bhatia: So due to security concerns in the Board of Supervisors, those Brown Act public meetings, boards, that take place on the same day as the scheduled Board of Supervisors meetings have been canceled. Those reservations at this building, the CAC, the County Administrative Center, have been canceled. And so therefore, the HSAB meetings that are scheduled in May, June, and November of this year, those reservations have been canceled. So to bring it forward to the Advisory Board for awareness and see if a different location should be seen on the same date, if a different date should be determined, or to use the CAC location or other options.

Barry Jantz: Yes, a question. I'm glad somebody had a question because I didn't know what to say.

Judith Yates: So let me, for clarity to make sure, so it doesn't mean just in 302, it also means in 402.

Barry Jantz: Yes anything within CAC on the same day.

James Lepanto: Is there an explanation of why just those months?

Dr. Anuj Bhatia: Those coincide.

Barry Jantz: When it falls on a Board of Supervisors day.

Judith Yates: Which is every Tuesday.

Barry Jantz: Well, yeah, but they're not every Tuesday. So we'd have to look at the calendar. So the first time we're affected by this is in May. So instead of handling it right now, why don't we kind of--how would you like to handle it? Would you like to see about proposing a schedule which in those months we do it a week later or another day or would you like a Doodle poll on that? What would you like to see? I guess I'm asking all of you.

Dr. Harriet Seldin: I would think ideally if we could keep it in this building, that would be good.

Barry Jantz: I think we've piloted already moving it to other places without a lot of success. All right, so May is a little bit off. So why don't we just schedule it to talk about scheduling? And that is for safety reasons. So can I say is it for personal safety and security reasons? Oh, I can't, I shouldn't say that. Sorry. That was a joke. Go ahead.

Judith Yates: Okay, so to get a jump on the May, I think what we might want to suggest is that if we have to be, that the first priority of the group, to stick with where you are, is we do a Doodle poll that says "If in May we had to move it, this is the first, the second," you know what I mean? Come up with a question or two. And then thirdly, if that looks ugly, then go to all right, what are the locations that you would be most comfortable [with] and have suggestions. Because I do think of the two or three I'm aware of, a couple of them are never going to be on my list. So, you know, we could do it that way and kind of--I'm just trying to help you get to where you need to be.

Barry Jantz: I think it's a good idea that we do, we do a little bit of work in advance of just walking in here and then we're having the same kind of discussion a month from now. So maybe the Doodle poll asks three questions. You know, one is, "Would you prefer to have it on the same day but move it to another location?" That's one question. "Would you prefer to keep it at the CAC but have it on a different day in the same week, or would you prefer to move it a week later in each of those three months in the same building?" Are those fair questions? And the fourth question could be any other ideas you'd like to throw in.



Geysil Arroyo: I would say maybe also looking to the availability of a room here for a later Tuesday.

Barry Jantz: So do you have enough information to form a little Doodle poll? Perfect. Then we'll walk in a month from now and have data.

James Lepanto: Can I ask another quick question? It's just for county admin here, it's not any other county buildings?


	<p>Dr. Anuj Bhatia: It’s for the CAC, all the regions the Board of Supervisor meetings take place in.</p>
<p>VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS</p>	<p>A. Subcommittee and Work Group Updates:</p> <p>Barry Jantz: We have no subcommittee and work group updates today. Although based on what we just heard on the work plan, I'm going to be reaching out to Mr. Heygi to tell him he's “voluntold” to continue sharing legislative committee and that there needs to be a meeting on some legislation if you want to come up with any bills. Well, if anybody would like to serve on that legislative committee that not only looks at legislation, but looks at the, as we heard today, the broader legislative program goals that the County is going to be looking at, please let me know. You don't have to do it now, but please let me know if you'd like to be in that.</p>



VIII. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
LEADERSHIP REPORT



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting Public Health Services Report


February 4, 2025





Public Health Officer Update

Ankita S. Kadakia, M.D.
Interim Deputy Public Health Officer
Public Health Services



Respiratory Virus Surveillance

COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Cases by CDC Episode Week, 2024-25 Fiscal Year-to-Date

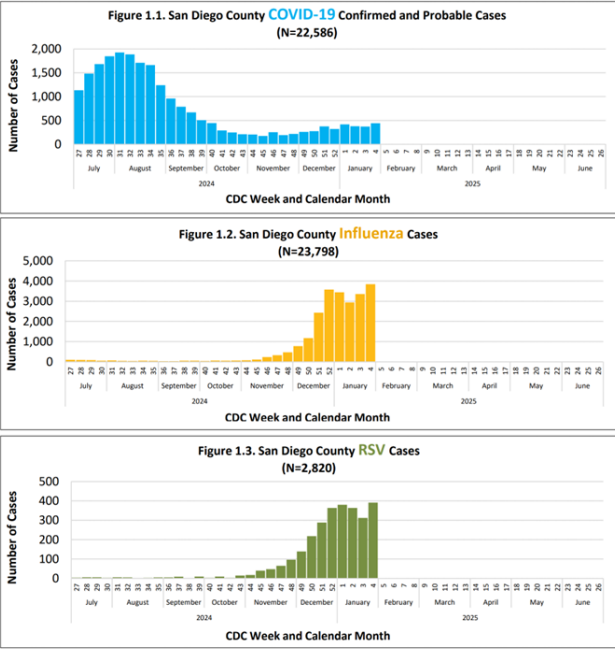
Indicator	2024-25 Fiscal Year		
	Week 4	Total To Date	Week 3
COVID-19†	442	22,586	372
Influenza	3,842	23,798	3,358
RSV	391	2,820	312

Data through
1/25/2025

↑70

↑484

↑79



Public Health Director Update

Elizabeth A. Hernandez, Ph.D.
Public Health Director
Public Health Services



Public Health Services

BOARD LETTER FORECAST	
Board Meeting Date	Subject
March 11, 2025	Tobacco Retail Licensing Program California Department of Justice (CADOJ) Award Funding
March 11, 2025	UCSD CDC Resilient Shield
May 20, 2025	Return to BOS Sustainable, Equitable, and Local Food Sourcing Program and Policy (B-75)
May 20, 2025	HRSA Ryan White Award and Ending the HIV Epidemic Award

Confidential: Subject to the deliberative process.

Media/Community Events

Targeted Date and Time	Description & Location of Event
November 2023 and ongoing	Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) radio ads run on local radio stations , Z90 and Magic 92.5. Digital banners pop up on high-traffic websites. Both the radio and digital ads are played for the target audience and will redirect listeners and viewers to the Black Legacy Now website.
June 2024 and ongoing	PEI creatives (brochures, door hangars, and postcards) are being distributed in the community to promote educating African-American mothers on the importance of advocating for equitable and dignified maternity health treatment for themselves and their babies.
February 6	CAC will be lit on Thursday to recognize Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month
February 12	2025 Teens for Healthy Relationships Conference. The San Diego Domestic Violence Council's Teen Dating Violence Committee is excited to host its 2025 Teens for Healthy Relationships Conference, where young people can gain the tools, knowledge, and skills to build respectful, supportive, and healthy relationships in all aspects of their lives.
April 4 (Tentative)	2025 <i>Live Well San Diego</i> 24 th Annual Public Health Champion Awards Ceremony
April 9	SDSU Health Expo. California Children's Services tabling
May TBD	New Public Health Laboratory Ribbon Cutting



Highlights

Dr. Kadakia Invitation to California TB Elimination Task Force Meeting

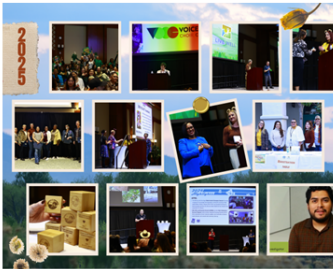
- **Purpose:**
 - To review and discuss the evidence base for progression towards TB elimination (particularly since the start of current 2021-2025 Elimination Plan), and
 - To articulate the most promising TB elimination strategies for California.
 - The meeting will result in recommendations to inform the 2026-2030 California TB Elimination Plan.
- The Task Force will convene in Berkeley, California on **Monday, March 3, 2025, from 9am-5pm PST.**

14

Highlights

2025 Public Health Services' All Staff Employee Recognition Advance

- On **Wednesday, January 15, 2025**, PHS gathered at San Diego State University (SDSU) to celebrate and inspire department staff with:
 - Greetings from County leadership,
 - Presentations from keynote speakers,
 - Fun and competitive activities, and
 - Recognize select staff for outstanding customer service with the H.E.A.R.T. awards!





2025 HHSA All-Staff Meeting: Better Together


- Nearly 6,000 HHSA have registered for the annual meeting to celebrate HHSA accomplishments
- This meeting will be available to staff during any one of the following three dates and times:
 - **Tuesday, February 4 at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**
 - **Thursday, February 6 at 3 to 4 p.m.**
 - **Thursday, February 6 at 5 to 6 p.m.**



Health Services Advisory Board Meeting



Thank you!



The Public Health Services department, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, has maintained national public health accreditation, since May 17, 2016, and was re-accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board on August 21, 2023.

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Questions and Comments:

Geysil Arroyo: I have two questions. I think it was the last meeting, the one that we had in January, you were talking about a vaccine event you were going to have.

Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez: Yes, the binational.

Geysil Arroyo: How did that go?

Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez: It went really well. There were vaccination events all throughout the San Diego region and we partnered with the Mexican consulate to do a vaccination event as well. And we, there was also similar events in California as well in terms of vaccination events. So it was a great partnership between both health departments and health-focused organizations.

Geysil Arroyo: Was there some press coverage?

Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez: There was.

	<p>Geysil Arroyo: And then my second question. I know you mentioned CDC one of your slides. You made me think of the CDC REACH funding that we have. And I was wondering, is that funding okay?</p> <p>Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez: We are still moving forward with the activities in our REACH funding and still moving forward with analyzing the federal administration changes.</p> <p>Geysil Arroyo: And I mentioned it because it stands for Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health.</p> <p>Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez: Yes, we're still moving forward and still getting guidance from our various county counsels and others in terms of how to move forward.</p>
<p>IX. ROUNDTABLE</p>	<p>Barry Jantz: I just wanted to remind folks, especially those who may be joining us, since there is a vacancy in District 1 on the County Board of Supervisors, and I think since we met last that may have been about the same time, but the Board of Supervisors is determined to have a special election so it'll be at least a few months if not more before that is filled. Dr. Afflalo, Ana Melgoza and as alternate, Samhita, will continue to serve. But I think Samhita, you had mentioned a month ago that you had gotten a request to reapply. So I just want to encourage those folks if they want to continue to serve whenever the seat is filled that they might want to just fill up that application and have it in and if they have questions about that they can reach out to me. I am working on with some high school districts regarding workforce and we're doing surveys about what skills graduating high school seniors need to have to be successful in the workplace. And this is especially focused on if they're not going to college. And so there's a healthcare component and some of the federally qualified health centers are working with us on this about an MA program. So I would, I'm going to ask if you take a little survey and you can scan it and fill it out and it will take you no more than five minutes unless you do surveys really really slow. I mean it's just asking you some basic questions and I'm trying to get as many health providers and health professionals and those focused on health and medical to fill out the surveys. So that's a kind of a personal request that kind of ties into what we're doing.</p> <p>Caryn Sumak: Could I just share a little information for situational awareness for everyone? Okay, so I just wanted people to be aware that the emergency departments have seen record high patient levels in the month of January. So normally a system stress indicator would be 2,500 to 3,000 visits for the region on a day and we've been in the four thousands. So I just wanted to put it on your radar, just so you guys are aware. I think some of the anecdotal information we're hearing is one, just increased disease burden, but two, also challenges with accessing primary care. So I think as we move forward, I know this is in line with some of our priorities, I'm really looking at how we can preserve or strengthen the access to health services, especially in light of changes at the federal level. So I just thought that might be helpful for folks to have on their radar.</p>
<p>X. PUBLIC COMMENT</p>	<p>Imani Robinson: Good afternoon. I am Commissioner Imani Robinson, but I am coming simply as a community member. The report was great, a lot of great information and I'm glad that we've come up with some form of solution as far as like the air filters, but I think it would be great if we could redirect funds into actually getting to the water in the sense of the air filter, it's great, but water filter is most important. So I'm really hoping that we can work on that while we're waiting on federal funds. And I understand that the facility, billions of dollars, they do not have enough funds. We know that. But I don't think we should stand still. There are organizations, I'm particularly working with an organization called Lillianah Technologies.</p>

	<p>They presented to our city several years ago. They were more, you know, they have a lot more experience now. And they are across the nation cleaning up water. And it's like something like the facility we have up north where the water is cleaned biologically, you know, just like how our digestive system works. We have good bacteria and we have bad bacteria. And so we have bad bacteria in our water. So we need to get some good bacteria in the water to actually eat it up. And it exists. And it doesn't cost billions of dollars. And I have talked with everyone but you. And I am hoping that we can possibly redirect some funds. And we have partners, UCSD, so we have access to laboratories. And it could be just as simple as just starting to get samples of the water so we can see what we're working with. And the organization has more than enough experience and is having great success across our nation cleaning up water. And having our residents cope with toxicity, I think, honestly, I think it's criminal. And so I just think there's a better way. And you want to give someone peace of mind, actually work on the problem. So if you want to work on mental health, actually have a solution. And so I'm hoping that we could partner--our city can partner with Lillianah Technologies so that we can start from the ground while we wait for other ways and actually at least start making some progress.</p> <p>Barry Jantz: Thank you so much. You mentioned your city.</p> <p>Imani Robinson: San Diego.</p> <p>Barry Jantz: I wasn't sure if it was one of the South County cities.</p> <p>Imani Robinson: No and I don't live there but I'm born and raised here in San Diego. I claim every city, every piece of this county. I travel throughout all of it and I consider it my home and it affects my family, it affects my friends. You know, looking at your research, I have a friend that, he was house sitting for his sister that has a beautiful condo right on the water, right at the playground, and he put his legs in the water and broke out in a filthy rash. It was awful. I have a friend that lived in that area for many years in Imperial Beach and now had to move to East County. So, I mean, we have enough, you know, analysis, but we have no progress in actually working on the problem. And I really hope that we can do that. Thank you.</p>
XI. ADJOURN	Motion to adjourn was made by Judith Yates and seconded by Jack Dailey . Meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM.
Next Meeting	<p>HSAB Monthly Meeting: Tuesday, March 4, 2025</p> <p>CAC: 1600 Pacific Hwy San Diego, CA 92101, Room 302, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm</p>